



TECH CENTER 1600/2900

JAN 04 2002

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B1 1. (Amended) Method of treating an underlying cause of a pathological condition characterized by an increased IL-1 and/or TNF- α level which comprises administering to a subject having such condition a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from a first group consisting of diacerein and rhein, in a pharmaceutical dosage form.

B2 11. (Amended) Method of treating an underlying cause of an inflammatory and/or autoimmune condition characterized by an increased IL-1 and/or TNF- α level which comprises modifying the production or action of proinflammatory cytokines, including said IL-1 and/or TNF- α , by administering to a subject having such condition a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from a first group consisting of diacerein and rhein, in a pharmaceutical dosage form.

Please add new claims 15-23 as follows:

B3 15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first group member is administered in association with a treatment to relieve symptomatic discomfort.

16. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said method of treatment further comprises also administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from a second group consisting of: (i) an IL-1 synthesis inhibitor, (ii) a TNF- α synthesis inhibitor, (iii) a composition that lowers the levels of IL-1, (iv) a composition that lowers the level of TNF- α , (v) an IL-1 receptor antagonist, (vi) a TNF- α receptor antagonist, (vii) a composition that down-regulates the number of IL-1 receptors, (viii) a composition that down-regulates the number of TNF- α receptors, and (ix) a combination thereof.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the first and second group members are co-administered.